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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 558
By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to designate April 1, 1998 as "Storytelling Day in Tennessee".

WHEREAS, storytelling is a major element in our rich historical and cultural heritage that is important today in our daily lives in enhancing learning, improving communication, combating illiteracy, and enriching our existence by linking us to our families, communities and other cultures; and

WHEREAS, America is enjoying a new appreciation and awareness for the power and importance of storytelling in today's society – the result of a revival that began in Tennessee 25 years ago; and

WHEREAS, the current awareness was ignited in 1973 by the first National Storytelling Festival now being held every year in Jonesborough, Tennessee, establishing Tennessee's oldest town as the birthplace of America's storytelling revival; and

WHEREAS, today the National Storytelling Festival is the premier storytelling event anywhere in America and the world, bringing international recognition to Jonesborough and the state of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the National Storytelling Association, in honor of storytelling and its Tennessee roots, is developing the National Storytelling Center in Jonesborough to serve as a beacon for storytelling worldwide, and a launching pad for national and international outreach and advocacy programs; and

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WHEREAS, a year-round presence for storytelling in Jonesborough will attract tourists and generate ten million dollars in new sales and one million dollars in new taxes each year; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That April 1, 1998 is hereby designated "Storytelling Day in Tennessee". All citizens of Tennessee are encouraged to reflect upon and acknowledge the importance of stories in connecting to our family heritage, forming our family values, and maintaining the common thread running through all races and cultures that is the essence of our humanity.